

1 **CLAIMS**

2 1. [CURRENTLY AMENDED] In the j-laying of a pipeline from an offshore
3 floating vessel, the method for raising a pipe section from a horizontal position
4 proximate the deck of said floating vessel to alignment with a mast for being connected
5 to the end of the pipeline, comprising

6 providing a main support arm which is pivoted from proximately a horizontal
7 position to a position proximately parallel to said mast,

8 providing a rotational axis mounted on said main support arm,

9 providing grabbers mounted on said rotational axis,

10 engaging said pipe section proximate said deck,

11 rotating said grabbers about the center of said rotational axis from a position below
12 said rotational axis to a second position above said rotational axis,

13 pivoting said main support arm and said pipe section to a position proximately
14 parallel to said mast, and

15 extending [delivering] said pipe section away from said rotational axis to said
16 mast.

17 2. [CURRENTLY AMENDED] The method of claim 1, further comprising extending
18 said grabbers [are extended] to first position to engage said pipe section proximate said
19 deck.

20 3. [CURRENTLY AMENDED] The method of claim 2, further comprising retracting
21 said grabbers [are retracted] to a third position closer to said rotational axis than said
22 first position prior to rotating said grabbers about said rotational axis to said second
23 position.

1 4. [CURRENTLY AMENDED] The method of claim 3, further comprising a
2 scissor type mechanism] moving [to move] said pipe section from said second position
3 to a fourth position for delivery to said mast using a scissor mechanism.

4 5. [CURRENTLY AMENDED] The invention of claim 4, further comprising using a
5 [the use of] force parallel to said rotational axis to extend and retract said scissor
6 mechanism and said grabbers proximately perpendicular to said rotational axis.

7 6. [CURRENTLY AMENDED] The invention of claim 5, further providing using [the
8 use of] hydraulic cylinders to provide said force to extend and retract said scissor
9 mechanism.

10 7. [CURRENTLY AMENDED] In the j-laying of a pipeline from an offshore floating
11 vessel, the method for raising a pipe section from a horizontal position proximate the
12 deck of said floating vessel to alignment with a mast for being connected to the end of
13 the pipeline, comprising

14 providing a main support arm which is pivoted from proximately a horizontal
15 position to a position proximately parallel to said mast,

16 providing a rotational axis mounted on said main support arm proximately
17 perpendicular to said rotational axis,

18 providing grabbers mounted on said rotational axis,

19 extending said grabbers to a first position a first distance from said rotational axis
20 to allow said grabbers to engage said pipe section proximate said deck,

21 rotating said grabbers about the center of said rotational axis from a position below
22 said rotational axis to a second position above said rotational axis,

23 pivoting said main support arm and said pipe section to a position proximately
24 parallel to said mast, and

1 extending [delivering] said pipe section away from said rotational axis to said
2 mast.

3 8. [CURRENTLY AMENDED] The method of claim 7, further comprising [the]
4 extending said grabbers from said second position to a fourth position for delivery of
5 said pipe section to said mast.

6 9. [CURRENTLY AMENDED] The method of claim 8, further comprising extending
7 said grabbers [are extended] from said second position to said fourth position by a
8 scissors mechanism.

9 10. [CURRENTLY AMENDED] The invention of claim 9, further comprising using a
10 [the use of] force parallel to said rotational axis to extend and retract said scissor
11 mechanism.

12 11. [CURRENTLY AMENDED] The invention of claim 10, further providing using [the]
13 use of] hydraulic cylinders to provide said force to extend and retract said scissor
14 mechanism.

15 12. [CURRENTLY AMENDED] A method of raising a pipe section from the deck of an
16 floating vessel to a mast for welding onto the end of a pipeline suspended from said
17 floating vessel for deploying said pipe section and the welded pipeline into the water as
18 a pipeline, comprising

19 providing a main support arm with a pivot axis proximate one end of said main
20 support arm,

21 providing a rotational axis along said main support arm proximately perpendicular
22 to said pivot,

23 mounting one or more grabbers on said rotational axis to engage said pipeline
24 section proximate said deck when said grabbers are in a first position,

1 rotating said one or more grabbers to a second position relative to said main
2 support arm,

3 pivoting said main support arm from a generally horizontal angle to a generally
4 vertical angle, and

5 extending [delivering] said pipe section away from said rotational axis to said
6 mast.

7 13. [ORIGINAL] The method of claim 12, further comprising moving said grabbers
8 to a third position closer to said rotational axis prior to rotating said one or more
9 grabbers to said second position.

10 14. [CURRENTLY AMENDED] The method of claim 13, further comprising [providing
11 a scissor type mechanism to move] moving said pipe section from said first position to
12 said third position using a scissor mechanism.

13 15. [ORIGINAL] The method of claim 12, further comprising extending said
14 grabbers to a fourth position further from said rotational axis than said second position
15 while delivering said pipe section to said mast.

16 16. [CURRENTLY AMENDED] The method of claim 15, further comprising [providing
17 a scissor type mechanism to move] moving said pipe section from said second position
18 to said fourth position using a scissor mechanism.

19 17. [CURRENTLY AMENDED] The invention of claim 16, further comprising using a
20 [the use of] force parallel to said rotational axis to extend and retract said scissor
21 mechanism.

22 18. [CURRENTLY AMENDED] The invention of claim 17, further providing using [the
23 use of] hydraulic cylinders to provide said force to extend and retract said scissor
24 mechanism.

1 19. [CANCELLED]

2 20. [CANCELLED]

3 21. [CANCELLED]